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Environment & Energy Monitor
Précis

Premier Rae announces Green Industry Strategy

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"Green industries offer unlimited opportunities to strengthen the economy and put Ontarians back to work, while also protecting the environment," said Premier Bob Rae, as he announced the details of the province's Green Industry Strategy.

Unveiled at last November's Environment and Energy Conference of Ontario, the strategy was developed to strengthen this key sector of the economy through the support of new environmental technologies, the expansion of markets and the promotion of exports.

"The Green Industry Strategy will ensure that Ontario enters the twenty-first century on competitive terms with anyone, anywhere," the Premier added.

Premier Rae announces details of Ontario's Green Industry Strategy at last November's Environment and Energy Conference of Ontario.

Rapidly growing world market

Today's rapidly growing world market for environmental products and services is estimated at $300 billion, and is expected to triple by the year 2000.

In 1992, more than $10 billion in revenues was generated by Canada's green industry sector, about half of which is located in Ontario. The province's green industry sector is growing at twice the rate of the Ontario economy as a whole.

GREEN JOBS

Three key areas

In response to consultation with sector stakeholders, the Green Industry Strategy focuses on three key areas: technology development, business development and trade promotion. The strategy will:

- Promote Ontario exports by: encouraging green industries to pool skills and form export consortia; setting up an industry clearinghouse to disseminate market intelligence; and conducting targeted trade missions.
- Strengthen Ontario businesses by: linking suppliers to market opportunities from government retrofit programs; developing training packages; promoting sector investment; and exploring a certification system for green products.
- Support innovative environmental technologies. For example, green industry will be directly involved in the development of environmental regulations. An industry task force will be set up to advise on the effectiveness of regulations in spurring the development of new technologies.

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Ontario

Eastward ho!

Last fall's trade mission to China and Hong Kong not only opened doors for future co-operation, it also enabled two environmental service companies to sign agreements for contract work in the burgeoning Asia-Pacific region.

"Many opportunities in environmental protection are opening up in the Asia-Pacific region," said Environment and Energy Minister Bud Wildman, who led the 10-day trade mission last September. "Ontario is a world leader in green industry and our companies have recognized expertise in water and wastewater management."

GREEN JOBS

Ontario companies get the nod

Aer-O-Flo Environmental of Burlington signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the city of Tiaxin, China to construct municipal water and sewage treatment plants with a price tag of about $10 million.

CMS Rotordisk Inc., of Concord also signed a Memorandum of Understanding, valued at approximately $1 million, to provide wastewater technology in Jiangsu province. In addition, the Ontario Clean Water Agency offered to enter into agreements to provide training to workers at water and sewage treatment plants in China.

Encouraging co-operation

The trade mission focused on strengthening the presence of Ontario environmental companies specializing in municipal and wastewater treatments, and fostering ties with southeast China's Jiangsu province. A twinning agreement between Ontario and Jiangsu, signed in November 1984, encourages exchanges and co-operation between the two provinces in many fields, including trade, technical expertise, education and cultural activities.

In addition to Aero-O-Flo and CMS Rotordisk, other companies represented on the trade mission included Conestoga Rovers Associates, Sci-Corp Systems Inc., and Goodfellow Consultants Far East Inc., as well as officials from the Ontario Clean Water Agency and Ontario.

"Both sides benefit from our visit," said Mr. Wildman. "Ontario companies are gaining an opportunity to compete for valuable internationally tendered contracts, while the Chinese receive cutting edge technology to help protect the environment and maintain their natural resources. Most importantly, pursuing environmental projects contributes to economic development and job creation, while also protecting the environment."

Minister Bud Wildman meets with government officials in Jiangsu province.

Environment and Energy Minister Bud Wildman lends a hand at the OCETA groundbreaking.

Open for business

OCETA is open for business. The Ontario Centre for Environmental Technology Advancement's official kickoff was last October, presided over by Environment and Energy Minister Bud Wildman.

The Ministry of Environment and Energy will invest about $4 million in the centre during the next four years to provide technical, business and financial counselling to small and medium-sized environmental companies. An industry-driven project, OCETA's goal is to get environmental products onto the market.

OCETA's partners include: Canadian Environment Industry Association; ORTECH; Ontario Hydro Technologies; Rockliffe Research Management/Wastewater Technology Centre; Greater Hamilton Technology Centre; Toronto Economic Development Corporation; Ottawa-Carleton Economic Development Corporation; Ontario Environmental Training Consortium; and the Canadian Institute for Technology for the Environment.

"Our investment will pay off – in competitive green industries, a healthy environment and jobs," said Mr. Wildman. "OCETA is a fundamental part of the government's plan to strengthen Ontario's green industries by nurturing the companies today that will create jobs tomorrow."

More support for innovative technologies

The Ontario government has approved a two-year extension of the Environmental Technologies Program (ETP), with funding to total $11 million in grants and loans. A key component of the Green Industry Strategy announced last November by Premier Bob Rae, the program strengthens Ontario's industrial base, creates value-added jobs, and stimulates new export opportunities.

The renewed program will support:

- applied industrial research;
- development and testing;
- field trials and demonstrations of innovative technologies.

$11 million in grants and loans

In the first year of the renewed program, $2 million will be available in grants and $3 million in loans. In the second year, 1996-97, $3 million will be available in each category.

Over the past five years, the program has provided almost $30 million to 65 projects valued at $75 million. This investment has created more than 500 scientific and technical jobs in 27 communities across the province. It is estimated that, during the next three years, these existing projects will create 2,000 more jobs as they reach the commercialization stage.

Range of technologies

The program has supported the development of technologies in the areas of water and sewage treatment, air pollution control, analytical instrumentation, 3Rs and tire recycling, waste management and site remediation.

Ontario companies account for approximately half of Canada's green industry, which produced about $10 billion in revenue in 1992. The largest subsector of this industry, environmental protection, generates about $2.5 billion in annual sales. There are some 2,000 companies in this area, providing jobs for 30,000 people. This makes it Ontario's third largest employer, ahead of pulp and paper and chemicals.

"A strong green industry sector will contribute to a strong Ontario economy," says Environment and Energy Minister Bud Wildman. "The Environmental Technologies Program is helping bring about the solutions that are making our communities cleaner and healthier places to live and work."

Continued from page 1

Renewable energy technology

"Ontario Hydro's recent announcement of $110 million to support future renewable energy technologies shows how the Green Industry Strategy can be put into action," said Environment and Energy Minister Bud Wildman. "Renewable energy sources are an important component of our New Energy Directions policy, which emphasizes meeting our energy needs in an environmentally sound manner."

Ontario's green industry sector is composed of a number of sub-sectors. For example, the environmental protection sub-sector includes over 2,000 companies which generate an estimated $2.5 billion in annual sales. The environmental protection industry provides jobs for over 30,000 people, making it Ontario's third-largest employer.

Partnerships

The Ontario Green Industry Strategy is based on the recommendations of the Green Industry Ministerial Advisory Committee (GIMAC). GIMAC was chaired by Andrew Benedek, Chair and CEO of Zenon Environmental, and included representatives from industry, labor and environmental groups.

The development and implementation of Ontario's Green Industry Strategy is a partnership effort involving green industry companies, the Ontario and federal governments, labor, environmental groups and Ontario communities. The strategy builds on a number of existing green industry initiatives, including: the Ontario Centre for Environmental Technology Advancement (OCETA): Home Green Ups; Green Industry Analyses and Retrofits; the Green Workplace; and Build Green.

EBR registry on target

Fourteen government ministries' final statements of Environmental Values are now accessible on Ontario's Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) registry.

Since preparing draft statements indicating how they would incorporate environmental concerns into their decisions, the 14 ministries covered by the EBR have considered all public comments and have filed final statements on the registry. Also available on the computerized bulletin board are the MOEE's proposals for environmentally significant regulations and prescribed instruments. Proposed environmentally significant policies and all other ministries' acts will become available beginning in April 1995.

Computer owners with a modem can gain access to the registry by using connect numbers EBR-3000 local and 1-800-667-9979 and via Internet and other networks using telnet 192.75.156.92 (no user name required).

To find out about the environmental registry and which libraries are on-line, people should request a copy of the Guide to Access and Use of the Environmental Registry (PIBS #3067E) from the Public Information Centre at the Ministry of Environment and Energy, 135 St. Clair Ave. W., Toronto, Ontario M4V 1P5 (416) 323-4321 or 1-800-565-4923 or contact your local library.

Minister Bud Wildman presents members of the Hamilton District Autobody Repair Association with the 1994 Pollution Prevention Leadership Award.

And the winners are...

The Pollution Prevention Pledge Program (P4) was in the spotlight at the recent Environment and Energy Conference. Environment and Energy Minister Bud Wildman presented awards to five organizations for their outstanding efforts in pollution prevention.

PEOPLE TALK

Davlin Cleaners won the Small Facility Award for its water-based "Clean and Green System," which enabled the company to eliminate the use of approximately 8,500 litres of perchlorethylene a year.

Two companies tied for first place in the Medium Facility category. Oakville-based Elf Atochem Canada Inc., which markets a wide range of chemical and lubricant products, has pledged to meet or exceed all regulations and ensure that its employees are trained to handle recycling materials, conserve water and energy, and minimize the environmental impact of chemical spills and emissions. Strataflex Canada Corporation of East York supplies flexible circuit boards to computer, aerospace, telecommunication and defence contractors throughout North America. It committed itself to a "zero haul-away" policy and to the in-house treatment of all wastes.

The Large Facility Award went to Xerox Canada. As part of its commitment to life-cycle stewardship, the company has eliminated the use of 140 kilograms of methylene chloride, as well as ozone-depleting substances.

Leadership

The 1994 Pollution Prevention Leadership Award went to the Hamilton District Autobody Repair Association (HARA). HARA has invited more than 300 automotive repair businesses in the Golden Horshoe area to Environmental Opportunity Workshops and sends out newsletters to keep its members informed about government legislation.

Scientists and students honored

Mr. Wildman also presented awards for Excellence in Research and Technology. The Principal Investigator Award, for projects funded through the ministry's Environmental Technologies and Environmental Research programs, went to Donald Hastie, Paul Shepson and John McConnell of York University. The trio conducted collaborative research studies of ground-level ozone in rural areas of Ontario. They received a citation and a cash award totalling $1,000.

Citations and cash awards were also presented to four students who completed environment and energy studies. Nisheeth Bahadur, a graduate student at U of T's Department of Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry, conducted research on the production of clean diesel fuel from sewage sludge and vegetable oil waste. Mukesh Sharma, a graduate student of the Univeristy of Waterloo's Department of Civil Engineering, studied Atmospheric PAH Deposition Modelling.

Hayley Hung, an undergraduate student at U of T's Department of Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry, studied Transport and Transformation Phenomena of Chemicals in Vegetation, while Christina Ragona, an undergraduate Civil Engineering student at Queen's University, conducted research on the Removal of Assimilable Organic Carbon from Drinking Water by a Biofiltration Process.

Environment and Energy staff awards

Scott Fleming, senior regulatory toxicologist, and Stuart Bailey, senior advisor, risk management and biotechnology, Standards Development Branch, received awards for their contributions to the Development of Multimedia Standards for Lead Embracing the Comprehensive Integration of Risk Assessment and Risk Management.

Gilles Castonguay, senior engineer, Science and Technology Branch, was honored for his effective liaison officer duties in the successful completion of the Electrochemical Membrane Recovery Systems project.

Power to the utilities

Sixty-six municipal electrical utilities are now able to offer better service to residents in their municipalities, thanks to the recent Power Corporation Amendment Act.

ENERGY

For historical reasons, these municipalities are served by municipal utilities and Ontario Hydro. The new act allows the municipal utilities to expand their service area to the municipal boundaries in stages.

"The change comes after extensive consultations with representatives of the affected parties," said Environment and Energy Minister Bud Wildman. "It will benefit customers by eliminating the inequity of some neighbors paying different hydro rates and help to improve service throughout those municipalities because one, not two, utilities will serve local residents and businesses."

In addition, the act permits the Crown corporation to enact pension fund changes negotiated in the collective agreements between Ontario Hydro and the Power Workers' Union and the Society of Professional and Administrative Employees. The act also gives the government greater flexibility by allowing it to appoint either the hydro chair or president as the chief executive officer.

MISA targets last two sectors

Draft clean water regulations have been released for the iron and steel manufacturing and electric power generation sectors – the final two industrial sectors to be regulated under the Municipal-Industrial Strategy for Abatement (MISA).

The proposed regulations are expected to reduce discharges of toxic chemicals of concern by almost 81 per cent from the iron and steel manufacturing sector and by about 26 per cent from the electric power generation sector.

Nine sectors covered

"With these two draft regulations," we've met our commitment to bring under control pollution discharges from nine key industrial sectors," said Environment and Energy Minister Bud Wildman. "The MISA clean water regulations are the strongest measures ever taken to protect Ontario waterways. By reducing pollution from the iron and steel and electric power generation sectors, we are protecting the environment and helping to ensure the long-term viability of two key sectors in the provincial economy."

Since 1993, legally enforceable limits have been finalized for the following industrial sectors: petroleum, pulp and paper, metal mining, metal casting, industrial minerals and the organic chemical manufacturing and inorganic chemical sectors.

Daily and weekly monitoring required

Iron and steel plants will be required through daily and weekly monitoring – to show compliance with maximum average loading limits for 12 parameters. The number of parameters at each plant ranges from four for the Lake Ontario Steel Company in Whitby to 11 for the Stelco Hilton Works.

Electric power generation stations will be required to show compliance with concentration limits for nine parameters, with the number of parameters ranging from one at the Bruce Heavy Water Plant in Tiverton to five at nuclear stations. The regulation does not include radionuclides because their discharge is regulated by the federal government.

Final effluents from the two sectors must fall between 6.0 and 9.5 on the pH scale and must not kill fish or water fleas when measured by a standardized scientific test.

Limits have been set for contaminants on the ministry's list of candidate substances for bans, phase-out or reduction at the plants where they have been found. These include: benzo(a)pyrene, benzene and heavy metals, such as zinc, lead and chromium.

Cost of compliance

The estimated capital cost of compliance for the iron and steel sector, which employs about 22,000 people at seven regulated plants, is $118.5 million, with an annual operating cost of $11.3 million.

The estimated capital cost of compliance for the electric power generation sector ranges from $103 to $153 million. Operation, maintenance and administration costs range from $11 to $15 million per year. This sector employs about 12,000 people at the 12 regulated stations.

Once the final regulations for the two sectors are issued, companies will have up to three years to comply with their requirements.

New drinking water objective

Environment and Energy Minister Bud Wildman has announced a lower interim drinking water objective for tritium – a radioactive form of hydrogen that occurs naturally, but is found at higher concentrations in wastewater from CANDU nuclear reactor operations.

Tritium is to be reduced to 7,000 becquerels per litre, down from 40,000. This objective is interim until the Canadian Drinking Water Guidelines for radionuclides are revised through a federal-provincial process.

Mr. Wildman also asked the federal government to tighten discharge limits of radioactive emissions from nuclear facilities, including the release of tritium in wastewater from nuclear power plants, in keeping with recommended international standards. In addition, he asked the federal government to accelerate the review of the Canadian Drinking Water Guidelines for radionuclides, including tritium, in drinking water.

Public consultation

The annoucement followed public consultation and a ministry review of scientific criteria for setting guidelines for tritium in drinking water. The public consultation was conducted by the Advisory Committee on Environmental Standards (ACES), an independent body of experts responsible for recommending standards for environmental contaminants to the minister.

Ontario Hydro has made a corporate commitment to continue to control its tritium discharges so that levels at water treatment plants near its facilities stay below 100 becquerels per litre on an annual average basis. It will also report publicly on its performance record in this regard.

Collingwood comes clean

Collingwood Harbor is the first of 43 hot spots around the Great Lakes to be declared clean. The Collingwood Harbor Public Advisory Committee (PAC), the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) Team and the community all worked together to successfully complete the RAP developed for the harbor's cleanup.

Changes to the town's sewage treatment plant have contributed to the dramatic reduction of phosphorous levels in the harbor and saved the town millions of dollars. Through habitat rehabilitation, stream bank stabilization and the creation of vegetation buffer strips, fish and wildlife habitats have been rehabilitated. The community has also intensified efforts to protect its 98-hectare wetland complex.

"The Ontario government is proud to have supported this initiative and we look forward to the delisting of other Areas of Concern in Canada," said Environment and Energy Minister Bud Wildman. "The hard work and dedication of all the partners in this RAP have earned Collingwood international status as the first Area of Concern to have met its restoration targets."

Under the recently signed Canada-Ontario Agreement, the federal and provincial governments expect to delist nine Areas of Concern by the year 2000, as part of the long-term strategy to restore, protect and sustain the Great Lakes Basin ecosystem.

Out with all ozone-destroying substances

Recent regulations for solvents and sterilants mean that Ontario now has strict controls on virtually all of the substances that attack the ozone layer.

"Ontario was one of the first provinces to control the production and use of CFCs," said Environment and Energy Minister Bud Wildman. "We now have a comprehensive program of regulations which effectively controls virtually all ozone-depleting substances. The regulations demonstrate our commitment to protecting human health and the environment and to Canada's obligation to the Montreal Protocol and its amendments."

The regulations set timetables for phasing out the production, use and transportation of sterilants and solvents containing chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), halons, hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), carbon tetrachloride and methyl chloroform. Solvents containing CFCs, methyl chloroform, carbon tetrachloride and HCFCs are used in industrial cleaning processes. Hospitals use sterilants which contain CFCs to sterilize medical instruments and devices.

Regulations to be phased in

Regulation 717/94 bans the production of solvents containing Class 1 ozone-depleting substances such as CFCs, carbon tetrachloride and methyl chloroform by Jan. 1, 1996. It also prohibits:

- their discharge, use and transfer as of July 1, 1996;
- their storage after July 1, 1998;
- the use of solvents containing the less harmful Class 2 substances, such as HCFCs, by January 2000 and their storage by 2002.

Regulation 718/94 prohibits:

- the production, use, discharge and transfer of specific Class 1 CFC-based sterilants by Jan. 1, 1996;
- the storage of these sterilants after Jan. 1, 1998;
- the production, use and discharge of sterilants containing Class 2 ozone-depleting substances after Jan. 1, 2000 and their storage after 2002.

Clearing the air

Drivers who want to help clear the air soon will be able to drop into a trial vehicle emission test centre in Toronto to have their vehicles checked free of charge. The province has hired Ontario-based ProtectAir Inc. to develop and operate the centre, which is scheduled to open in April 1995.

Last spring, the MOEE and Ministry of Transportation requested proposals to operate a centre to test the emissions of 25,000 vehicles during a one-year trial period. ProtectAir Inc.'s $4.2 million bid offered an innovative approach that best met all the technical requirements for the contract.

Two emission tests

The company will renovate a building next to the Hilton Hotel, near Pearson International Airport, where a staff of about 12 people will perform two emission tests. The first will use sensors to measure the pollutants in the car's exhaust as it drives by. The second uses a dynamometer, a treadmill-like machine, to analyse the vehicle's exhaust as it accelerates, cruises and slows down.

A technician will then provide a report outlining equipment repairs or maintenance that could reduce the vehicle's emissions while improving fuel economy.

Raising public awareness

"The ClearAir program will help us find answers to key questions about testing vehicle emissions," said Ministry of Transportation Minister Mike Farnan. "Questions like, what condition Ontario's vehicles are in, how effective the technology is and how much pollution can be cut by controlling emissions. It will also help us raise public interest in reducing emissions voluntarily."

Vehicle repair professionals will have a chance to tour the centre to learn about the emission testing. At the end of the one-year pilot, the government will evaluate the technology and the program's effectiveness to determine whether mandatory testing will be implemented.

Get 'em while they last

"Greening," the Ministry of Environment and Energy's Annual Report is now available. It covers the period from April 1, 1993 to March 31, 1994 and reflects the first full year of operation since the former ministries of environment and energy were combined.

It was a memorable first year and we've made solid progress on many fronts. Highlights of the year include the proclamation of the Environmental Bill of Rights, the freezing of electricity prices, the finalization of Ontario's first clean water regulations, the creation of the Ontario Clean Water Agency, the drafting of regulations that will improve overall air quality by reducing smog and the ongoing greening of Ontario's industries and communities.

These achievements demonstrate not only our commitment to restoring and protecting the environment, but also the vital role that our many partners have played in helping us reach our goals of environmental conservation, pollution reduction and energy efficiency.

For details on how you can get your copy of "Greening," see the Periodic Publication Report

Gas station owner fined

An Ottawa court has fined Sukh Chain Singh and his companies $155,000 for negligence resulting in a gasoline leak at a gas station in Orleans. The gas seeped into an adjacent property, forcing the MacIntyre family to abandon their home.

Mr. Singh and his two companies, Patpatia Company Limited and Caltex Petroleum Inc. were fined $140,000 under the Environmental Protection Act. The companies were also fined $15,000 for failure to comply with orders under the Gasoline Handling Act.

The gas leaked from mid-February until the end of March, 1993, when explosive levels of gasoline in the MacIntyre home led to an evacuation. When Mr. Singh did not comply with orders to clean up the fuel spill and to repair and replace defective equipment, the Ministry of Environment and Energy issued a Minister's Direction and contractors were hired to do the cleanup. Orders were served on the gas station and the directors of his associated companies requiring that the ministry be reimbursed for the cost of the cleanup.

LEGAL EYE

Neighboring home demolished

The MacIntyre home could not be salvaged and was demolished. Soil saturated with gasoline was excavated and properly disposed of, and some 600,000 litres of groundwater treated. The MacIntyres have received compensation from the ministry for their house.

The cleanup and compensation for the MacIntyre home cost the MOEE more than $750,000. The ministry will be seeking to collect this money at a future hearing which has yet to be scheduled.

Maximum fine for tire dumping

A Vaughan company and its sole director have been fined $141,400 for depositing and storing tires illegally in a building.

Diego Monaco and The Industrial Group of Canada Limited received the maximum fine under the Environmental Protection Act after being convicted of two violations in a Newmarket court.

Mr. Monaco operated a waste management system for the storage and handling of used tires without the required certificate of approval between May 20, 1993 and July 22, 1993. During that time, tires were stored in a building until it was filled to capacity. The tires were then abandoned.

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Précis

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2831 B GP GREENING – MOEE ANNUAL REPORT 1993-94/ÉCOLOGISATION A L'OEUVRE – RAPPORT ANNUEL

2945 E GP ONTARIO'S GREEN INDUSTRY STRATEGY (KIT)

2945 F GP LA STRATEGIE ECO-INDUSTRIELLE DE L'ONTARIO

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3209 E GP CARE & FEEDING OF YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM

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3283 E IS DRIVING ONTARIO WITH NATURAL GAS

3291 E SR ONTARIO'GREEN INDUSTRY STRATEGY – A CLEAN AND STRONG ECONOMY

3291 F SR STRATEGIE DE DEVELOPPMENT POUR L'INDUSTRIE ONTARIENNE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

3295 B IS POWER CORPORATION AMENDMENT ACT 1994/LOI DE 1994 MODIFIANT LA LOI SUR LA SOCIETE PROVINCIALE DE L'ELECTRICITE

3303 E PG WATER MANAGEMENT – POLICIES,GUIDELINES, PROVINCIAL WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES

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3315 E IS SOLVENTS AND STERILANTS REGULATED

3315 F IS LA REGLEMENTATION DE L'EMPLOI DES SUBSTANCES DESTRUCTRICES D'OZONE

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3319 E SR DRAFT EFFLUENT MONITORING AND EFFLUENT LIMITS REGULATION – ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION SECTOR - MISA

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